In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide), the blend having improved melt processability and mechanical properties without the addition of plasticizers; and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more types of monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

3. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

4. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

5. (Amended) The composition of Claim 4, wherein the one or more polar vinyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

6. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of a polar vinyl monomer, a polar vinyl oligomer or a combination thereof, relative to the weight of the polyethylene oxide.

7. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

8. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

9. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is thermoplastic and water-soluble, and

wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water-soluble, and

wherein the composition is thermoplastic and water-soluble without the addition of plasticizers.

10. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

11. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

12. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene

oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

13. (Twice Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition comprising a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more types of monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

14. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

15. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

16. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

17. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of polar vinyl monomer, polar vinyl oligomer or a combination thereof, relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide).

18. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

19. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

20. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is thermoplastic and water-soluble, and wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water-soluble.

21. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

22. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

23. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 50

weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

24. (Twice Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition consisting essentially of a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more types of monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

25. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

26. (Twice Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the one or more types of monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

Please add the following new claims:

33. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with molecular weights between about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

34. (New) The film of Claim 27, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with molecular weights between about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.